

NID 84-103JX

5/02/84

INDIA: Split in Sikh Movement

Growing factional disputes in the Sikh movement have resulted in a formal split within the Sikh Akali Dal Party. [REDACTED] Nearly one-third of the party's members left the moderate faction this past weekend to join the more militant extremists. The breakaway group complained that the party leadership is weak and prone to compromise with New Delhi. [REDACTED]

Comment: The split not only strengthens the extremists but reduces prospects for a negotiated settlement between New Delhi and the Sikhs. Longstanding personal and political animosities between rival Sikh leaders have led to the recent rise in vendetta killings, which preceded the break. [REDACTED]